



Navarre CERT Newsletter

February thru May, 2011

June 6, 2011

What's been happening and what's coming up?

Member Charlie Batson Puts CERT Training in Action

Dora, Alabama, is the hometown of Charlie Batson, a fairly new member of Navarre CERT and a graduate of the March, 2011, class. When he heard about the April 27 tornadoes in that area, he got in touch with family members in the area, and the following morning he got permission from Hurlburt Field, where he is a Weapons Safety manager, to head to the area and provide help.



Charlie turned out to be a big contributor to response in the area, drawing upon his ham radio skills and CERT

knowledge. CERT members take care of family first and Charlie did that, getting his family members up on backup generators. Then he volunteered his help to local emergency services.

As we hear in training, in the event of a disaster, first responders can be overwhelmed, and that was certainly the case.

Charlie was assigned to a POD. As stated in an e-mail from the

training. Of course, as we

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Special points of interest:

- Navarre CERT Member Responds
- Training Exercise
- Ham Radio Field Day

Inside this issue:

- Change in board terms
- Preparedness month
- CERT mobile
- Basic CERT classes
- Community event support
- Training at team meetings
- Update on stolen gear

Help Wanted: Multi-location Training Exercise

Most team members have been through at least one training exercise, but primarily the one at the end of the basic CERT training. Our team coordinator, TJ Doherty, has been designing a new exercise, but our training coordinator, Mike Sandler, needs a team to help with doing

the planning and preparation. TJ, the section chiefs and staff have been very busy with other CERT activities and business and unable to focus on this exercise. Read on to see the outlines of the class. If you can help, e-mail Mike at training@navarrercert.org.

Each of the exercises we've previously done has been in a single location and have focused on skills like search and rescue, disaster medical operations, and teamwork.

Now, we want to do one that is

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Navarre CERT Amateur Radio Club To Participate in National Field Day

At 9:00 the morning of Saturday, June 25, members of the Navarre CERT Amateur Radio Club will set up in Navarre Park's main pavilion. There will be five high frequency stations and antennas to cover various bands of radio frequencies.

The goal? To expose the public to amateur radio and its role in emergency response, and recovery and encourage people to learn about amateur radio to

possibly become "hams" themselves. In the process, the team competes with other stations all over the US to make as many contacts as possible, using only emergency power sources, as would be needed in a disaster situation.

Actual operation starts at 1300 (1pm) Saturday, and runs continuously (barring severe weather) for 24 hours. All members of the public are invited to attend and learn

more about amateur radio and Navarre CERT. Interested folks may be able to get on the air themselves. No license is needed if a licensed control operator is present.

Midway Fire Department is lending its command bus to the event, providing another point of interest for visitors.

Please join us at the park! See www.fieldday.navarrercert.org if you want to sign up to help.

*News from Navarre**CERT, Inc***Directors Terms Now Three Years; Four To Be Elected in 2011**

Navarre CERT directors voted at the May, 2011, board meeting to amend the by-laws by changing the length of a director's term from two years to three. The board can have from three to ten members, and usually has nine or ten. This will provide more continuity and experience, and fewer slots to fill at each election.

For transitional purposes, the board decided to give current directors the option to extend their terms from two years to

three, and some chose to do so.

Terms run through:

- 2011 for Sue Ferson, Bob Ferson, and Don Nicholson
- 2012 for TJ Doherty, Lou Green, Carol Henry, Debbi Lewis, and Mike Sandler
- 2013 for Bill Crouch

A tenth director position is vacant and will be included in the 2011 election.

A nominating committee has

been formed to recommend candidates for the 2011 election. Candidates will be announced at the September 28, 2011, team meeting. Navarre CERT members will be able to vote electronically from then until the October 26 meeting, or by paper ballot at that meeting.

If you would like to be a candidate, or recommend someone else, please e-mail admin@navarrecert.org.

*Uncle TJ Wants**YOU!***September National Preparedness Month, CERT Festival**

Navarre CERT will hold a Disaster Preparedness Festival during September, if a group of members forms a committee to put it together. Besides helping the community, this would be a team fundraiser.

The festival would be held in a

public area in Navarre, with booths for businesses and organizations involved in disaster preparedness, response and recovery. We've had interest from a couple of businesses. Naturally, we'd have our information booth. It could also include other things to draw

interest, such as entertainment.

This can't happen by magic, and it won't happen at all if we can't set up a committee. Volunteer for it by e-mail to operations@navarrecert.org. We need to get started very quickly.

Meet the CERTmobile

The Chevy Suburban donated to Navarre CERT by Santa Rosa County has been dubbed the "CERTmobile" by the board and staff. It took a while, but sponsor decals, along with the team logo, have been added to its exterior.

Sponsors donate \$250 to \$1000 to have their name or logo displayed on either the CERTmobile or the team's mobility trailer. The Suburban tows the trailer to events and also provides extra transport space for equipment and supplies needed for any given event.

Basic CERT Classes

In conjunction with Santa Rosa County, Navarre CERT conducted a basic CERT class in March, 2011. Graduates were Charlie Batson, Thomas Prettyman, Doug Tucker, Marshall Wagner, and Susan Lee.

We conduct these classes over two consecutive weekends. The next class will be:

Fridays, Sept. 16 and 23,
6:00 - 9:30pm
Saturdays, Sept. 17 and 24,
8:00am-5:00pm
Sundays, Sept. 18 and 25,
1:00 - 5:00pm
Final exercise and graduation
take place on the last Sunday.

The class will be held at Holy-Navarre's Fire Station #45.

Team members who received their training prior to 2010 are encouraged to attend this class, either in part or in full. In addition to refreshing your knowledge and skills, your presence can be valuable to new students.

All members should make sure family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers are aware of this training. It's free and there's no obligation to join Navarre CERT. *Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams* uses materials provided by the

Citizen Corps, which is a program under the Dept. of Homeland Security. Classes are taught by CERT members who have completed special "Train the Trainers" classes, augmented by emergency response experts.

Topics covered are:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Light Search and Rescue
- CERT Organization
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism and CERT

Ralph Agnew, TJDoherty and Mike Sandler are now certified to teach "Train the Trainers" classes. A curriculum is under development.

Batson Responds

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ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) team in the area, "Your training efforts paid off big time and Charlie performed in a superior manner while he was in Walker (Jasper) County... While Charlie was on duty, he was tasked to also run errands to other nearby POD's, assisting in coordination of the movement of goods and overall was a very beneficial amateur radio operator in the overall operation in this area.

"Even on his last day... preparing to depart for home, he was running errands and helping the operation.

"Charlie was ready any time a task needed to be completed ...and even advised a time frame he would report back with the results for the task."

"Charlie made things happen and did it in a professional way."

Charlie credited his CERT training in discussing his contribution. He raised aware-

ness of CERT and expects that a local CERT program will be developed in the area where he served.

The May 19, 2011, edition of the Navarre Press ran a feature on Charlie's contribution, giving it a headline of "Alabama Residents Name Navarre Resident a Hero".

We applaud Charlie's work, and are proud that his CERT training played a role in making a positive contribution in the response to the tornadoes. Thank you, Charlie!

"Charlie made things happen and he did it in a professional way."

Exercise

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a bit more like what we'll have to do in a true disaster response and recovery situation., and also provide an opportunity for the leadership to exercise their own abilities and plans. CERT command would be set up in

one location, and teams would be created and sent to various Navarre neighborhoods, where they'll need to set up individual locations. TJ and the section chiefs would remain at CERT command, and strike team leaders would be in charge at their own locations, communicat-

ing with command via ham radio. Communication within each team would be by FRS.

If possible, the exercise would be done in conjunction with Pace CERT and Santa Rosa County Emergency Management, to be even more similar to the "real thing".

*The more people that
volunteer, the less work
there is for each one.*

Community Event Support

On March 5, Navarre CERT assisted the Santa Rosa Sheriff's personnel with pedestrian safety at the Krewe of Jesters' annual Mardi Gras Parade.

On April 8, the Navarre Garden Club combined its annual "Spring Fling" and its Garden & Environmental Expo. We set up and staffed our information booth at their request.

This year, the Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce beat the heat by scheduling the 27th annual Navarre FunFest for April 29-30. As we have done for several years, Navarre CERT

provided help with parking lot access control, pedestrian safety, bus loading/unloading, etc., as well as setting up and staffing our information booth. In recognition of the hundreds of hours of support that the team has provided every year, the Chamber made Navarre CERT a stage sponsor at no financial cost. Both the Chamber and the SRSO were quite appreciative of CERT's work.

Navarre CERT was also a sponsor of the Emergency Preparedness Workshop conducted by the CIL-Disability Resource

Center. Our coordinator, TJ Doherty, was a speaker, and TJ, his wife Oud, Debbi Lewis and Chris Arnold covered our information booth.

May 7 was the date of the 2011 Sunset Stampede 5k Run/Walk and Kids' Fun Run. Once again Navarre CERT provided assistance to Santa Rosa County Sheriff's personnel in providing safety for the participants. The organizers gave us a sponsorship in recognition of our help.

Check www.navarre-cert.org for upcoming events, and sign up to help!

Training at Team Meetings

We always attempt to do some refresher or advanced training at our team meetings. Here's what you missed if you skipped any of the last four team meetings:

February: Steve Mewborn of Santa Rosa County Emergency Management made a terrific presentation on the subject of sheltering in place, particularly in chemical or bio-hazard events.

March: We saw another great presentation, this time by Carl Jackson of Gulf Power. Carl

used Gulf Power's "Safety City" display to share valuable information about electrical emergencies.

April: Brad Baker of SRC Emergency Management provided information on changes in CPR protocols (more compressions, fewer breaths), and reviewed AED usage.

May: Steve Mewborn again provided training, this time on the subject of POD management. If you don't know what a POD is, check the county's disaster preparedness guide.

Stolen Gear Update

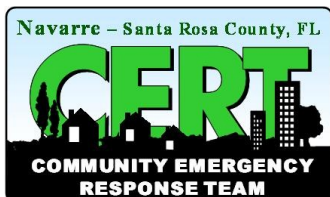
We're happy to report that Santa Rosa County Emergency Management has been able to replace all the items not recovered from the December break-in, except a small table top grill. We appreciate it.

Santa Rosa County Disaster Preparedness Guide

The Guide has been revised and is better than ever. It will be available at team meetings and it can be downloaded at www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency/documents/2011DisasterGuide.pdf



Brad Baker explains new CPR standards



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Navarre CERT, Santa Rosa County, Florida

The Navarre Community Emergency Response Team is dedicated to preparedness for, response to, and recovery from disasters, especially hurricanes, in Navarre and Santa Rosa County. Our members are all volunteers with differing degrees of experience and training in emergency response, and include retired firefighters and paramedics as well as "desk jockeys", male and female, young and older.

www.navarre-cert.org